



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.1725 | FAX (517) 373.0741

[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/mcmanus/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/mcmanus/)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 23, 2003

Contact: Emily Carney  
517-373-1725

## **Methamphetamine producers facing tougher penalties**

LANSING — Fines and penalties for the production of methamphetamine in Michigan will increase under a package of seven bills passed Wednesday in the Senate.

“Methamphetamine is highly addictive and dangerous, destroying lives, tearing families apart and threatening our environment,” Sen. Michelle McManus (R-Lake Leelanau) said. “This legislation will help deter people from setting up meth labs like the one raided in Marion earlier this week.”

Methamphetamine is a growing concern throughout Michigan with clandestine labs springing up in rural and urban areas, in barns, garages, apartments, storage areas and vehicles. Most recently, investigators discovered a methamphetamine laboratory in a garage in northwestern Osceola County. Toxic byproducts given off during methamphetamine production pose serious environmental risks, as they often are dumped in public sewers or directly on the ground.

The package of bills includes provisions that:

- Prohibit the possession of more than 12 grams of pseudoephedrine (with the exception of pediatric products), a chemical used in the production of methamphetamine;
- Increase to 20 years imprisonment the maximum penalty for those owning or possessing the places, chemicals or equipment used in production of the illegal stimulant;
- Create a new crime with a maximum penalty of four years imprisonment for people who transport anhydrous ammonia in unapproved containers;
- Require inspection of property used as a lab for the production of methamphetamine to determine if there is contamination, and require public warnings if any is discovered.

Senate Bills 648-652, 698 and 777 now go to the House for consideration.

###